

TOP SECRET

28 May 1951

The Honorable
The Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Marshall:

Please refer to your letter of May 23 forwarding letters from Senators Russell and McMahon. Senator McMahon requests that paraphrases of reports made to General MacArthur relative to Chinese intentions to intervene in the Korean war be made available.

This request is identical to a previous request from Senators Russell and Saltonstall forwarded to this agency by Mr. Lovett. On May 21 I wrote to Mr. Lovett on this matter. In this letter I pointed out that it was my understanding that the estimates dealing with the Far Eastern situation were distributed by the Department of the Army to the Far Eastern Command, and that our representatives with the Far Eastern Command passed to that headquarters immediately upon receipt such reports as they themselves obtained. I also stated that it was my firm belief that in view of the vital importance of protecting our sources none of the material should be released to any other agency of the government.

You may also be interested in a letter sent to Mr. Lovett on May 4, in reply to his request, summarizing the intelligence estimates on intervention by Chinese Communists in the Korean War. As I told Mr. Lovett, I think it would be most unfortunate if any of this information became public.

Faithfully yours,

SIGNED

Walter B. Smith
Director

O/DCI LBK:mlk
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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

Dear General Smith:

Transmitted herewith is a copy of a letter dated May 17, 1951, from Senator Russell, forwarding a letter from Senator McMahon dated May 15, 1951. Senator McMahon requests that paraphrases of reports made to General MacArthur relative to Chinese intentions to intervene in the Korean war be made available for the use of the combined Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees.

Faithfully yours,



Lt. Gen. W. B. Smith
Director
Central Intelligence Agency

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UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Armed Services

May 17, 1951

Hon. George C. Marshall
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter dated May 15 which I have received from Senator McMahon, requesting a paraphrase of reports made to General MacArthur relative to Chinese intentions to intervene in the Korean war.

I shall thank you to provide such of these reports as can be furnished by the Defense Department, and to obtain from the Central Intelligence Agency whatever reports they may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard B. Russell

Enclosure

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C O P Y

May 15, 1951

Hon. Richard B. Russell:
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Russell:

I wish that you would call upon the Central Intelligence Agency to give us a paraphrase on the reports made to General MacArthur relative to Chinese intentions to intervene in the Korean war.

I particularly am interested in a message that is alleged to have gone to MacArthur on or about October 20, 1950.

I would like the Defense Department to be called on for the same type of information.

Very truly yours,

/s/

United States Senator

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